

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

DATE: MARCH 12, 2009

PRESENT: DALE WITZKE, STAN KLINE, ROGER JAEGER, BOB WARNKE,
ROBERT STONE AND JUDY STECKBAUER

EXCUSED ABSENCE: JOSEPH MAEHL

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

Stan Kline called the meeting to order and requested a motion for the acceptance of the meeting agenda. Dale Witzke so moved, second by Bob Warnke. All ayes, motion carried. Stan Kline called for Public Comments. As none, minutes of the February 12, 2009 meeting were read. Stan Kline requested motion for the acceptance of the meeting minutes as read. Dale Witzke so moved, second by Bob Warnke. All ayes, motion carried. Stan Kline requested motion for acceptance of the March 12, 2009 financial report. Dale Witzke so moved, second by Bob Warnke. All ayes, motion carried. Upswing in demand noticed. Anticipating a future incline in demand as disconnect notice date for utilities is in April. Robert received a \$500 donation from the Rolling Thunder group out of Green Bay to be utilized for veteran assistance. We are currently running a little ahead of budget and Robert is concerned about running out of money by September. Dale believes that with the current economic conditions, it is surprising that it is not worse. Robert gave case study of vet who requested financial assistance that had made some very poor choices.

Old Business: Bob had again contacted Senator Feingold's office and not getting much of a response but may have figured out why. He had also contacted Petrie's office and has received letter regarding legislation that has been introduced. Petrie believes that when a person drives for charity work they should be treated the same as when they drive for a "for profit" organization. The bill is called the Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act. Maybe issue if the individuals that drive the DAV van would be considered a charitable group. Bob hopes that it would encompass them as well. Stan would like to take letter to the legislative committee for Winnebago County to support. Bob encouraged all to write letters to legislators in support of this. Also other charities in area.

Robert had given presentation before the County Board on March 3rd. Stan and Bob both thought that it went well. Roger asked for highlights of presentation and Robert stated that it was purely for informational purposes. Stan thought that it was a great idea that Robert spoke on the economic impact of veterans benefits to the county. Robert stated that there is still work to do in different areas of the office. Nancy Taylor-Sowatzke, who works in the Veterans' Service branch office in Neenah, put together a presentation on survivor benefits and about a dozen people attended. Robert spoke on staff meetings and that he expects staff to attend! He is currently wrestling with communication issues with the Federal VA. With all the regionalization of services, the personal contact has been

lost. Spoke on TRIP training which basically means that a person could access VA information from a computer right in the veterans' office after completing this training and having accreditation with a service organization. All staff has gone through the accreditation training but none have the TRIP training. If costs are involved for this training or for the computer access, Robert believes that grant funds would be appropriate for this since it certainly is an enhancement to services.

New Business: Handout distributed on price comparison for different cemeteries. Judy had contacted one in Oshkosh, Winneconne, Omro and Neenah. Robert was surprised that the costs were pretty reasonable. Robert gave a few additional comments on the meeting that he and Stan attended with the manager of LVMP.

CVSO report for the month of February distributed and Robert stated that each and every month is busy. He feels that the numbers are impressive and there is more than 1 person/day accessing our office that has never touched base with us before. Some discussion on year-to-date information being added to report. Robert likes to keep report to 1 page. Decision made that if something is significant it could be mentioned in the narrative area.

Stan Kline requested motion to go into closed session. Roger Jaeger so moved at 11:20 a.m., second by Dale Witzke. Roll Call – Stan Kline – aye, Dale Witzke – aye, Roger Jaeger – aye, Bob Warnke – aye. All ayes, motion carried. Convened in closed session for the purposes of acting on applications for financial, medical, social, or personal histories of such applicants which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or date, as provided in sec. 19.85 [1] [f], Wisconsin State Statutes.

Stan Kline requested motion to come out of closed session. Roger Jaeger so moved at 11:40 a.m., second by Dale Witzke. Roll call – Stan Kline – aye, Dale Witzke – aye, Roger Jaeger – aye, Bob Warnke – aye. All ayes, motion carried.

The next meeting will be on April 9, 2009, 10:30 A.M. at the J.P. Coughlin Building, Meeting Room B, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI.

Dale Witzke moved to adjourn, seconded by Bob Warnke. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Steckbauer, Secretary